

A large group of diverse young people and adolescents are gathered for a CSW70 event. They are holding various protest signs, including "End poverty. CARE FOR ALL!", "CLIMATE JUSTICE IT'S OUR PLANET TOO!", "EQUAL", "WE WANT A DIGITAL REVOLUTION THAT WORKS FOR ALL!", "WOMENS RIGHTS are human RIGHTS!", "FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS Rights. Equality. Empowerment.", and "IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL WOMEN AND MISSING IN THE CONVERSATION". The background shows a large hall with tables and chairs, and a blue overlay is applied to the entire image.

CSW70 Global Youth and Adolescents Recommendations: Beyond Access: Justice, Power, and Young Feminist Leadership

HIGH-LEVEL PRIORITIES

Acknowledgements: With gratitude to the editors of the CSW70 Global Youth and Adolescents Recommendations, and to the over 23,000 young people and adolescents from more than 75 countries, across Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and Oceania who participated in and contributed to the grassroots, local, national, and regional consultations that these recommendations are anchored in.

Chapeau: Structural Justice, Redistribution, Accountability, and Feminist Youth Leadership

Justice for all women, girls, and gender-diverse people is **not a service but a political, economic, and structural struggle**. It is systematically obstructed by patriarchal, authoritarian, militarised, fascist, fundamentalist, and neoliberal systems, manifested through war economies, arms trade, austerity, privatization, debt dependency, corporate capture, extractivism, and development models that **dispossess land-dependent and Indigenous communities**. Achieving justice, therefore, requires the dismantling of these systems, redistribution of power, demilitarisation, protection and expansion of civic space, the enforcement of labor, social, reproductive, and economic rights, the full realization of bodily autonomy as a non-negotiable to dignity, reparative interventions, and the meaningful leadership of young people, adolescents, and feminist movements at all levels.

We reaffirm the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals**, and all relevant international and regional human rights instruments, as well as outcomes and follow-up of major UN conferences and summits on women's and girls' rights.

Adopting **gender-transformative, intersectional, intergenerational, multi-stakeholder, and movement-led approaches**, ensuring normative commitments translate into justice and lived rights, is essential, particularly for **adolescents, LGBTQIA+ communities, women and girls living with disabilities, young women and girls living with HIV, Indigenous, afro-descendents, rural and minority women and girls, communities discriminated by caste and descent, women in informal and precarious work, survivors of conflict and displacement, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, women and girl human rights defenders, journalists under threat, and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination**.

We call upon **Member States, UN entities, corporations, and all relevant actors** to adopt the following recommendations in full, without reservation or regression:

Development Justice and Economic Accountability

1. Hold states, corporations, and international financial institutions **legally, politically, and financially accountable** for policies, programmes, and projects that underfund justice systems, social protections, and civic spaces, reaffirming the right to development; and ensuring that justice systems protect **land-dependent, Indigenous, tribal, rural, and informal communities** from extractivist projects, corporate land grabs, and development models that dispossess and marginalize, respecting their right to free, prior and informed consent, as established in ILO Convention no. 169.
2. Implement temporary special measures, including **affirmative action, quotas, reparations, and wealth redistribution mechanisms**, as essential to closing structural economic, social, and gender inequities.

Survivor-Centred Justice and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

3. Guarantee **universal and unimpeded access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and bodily autonomy**, including the right to **safe, legal, and accessible abortion** and **comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care** across all contexts to guarantee **universal, free,**

trauma-informed access to justice for survivors of violence, discrimination, abuse, and harassment.

4. **Repeal discriminatory punitive laws and policies restricting abortion and reproductive autonomy and self-determination and criminalize forced pregnancy, female-genital-mutilation, coercive sterilisation, child, early, and forced marriage,** and state or religious control over bodies, which constitute structural violence and violations of human rights.
5. Ensure access to **interpretation and translator services** for all survivors, and **accessible information on rights and procedures** in inclusive and **multi-lingual formats**, including in local, rural, and tribal languages and dialects, including **sign language interpretation** and other accessible formats such as **braille**.
6. **Mandate reparations, compensation, and long-term support,** including removal of statutes of limitation and jurisdictional barriers to sexual violence, child abuse, and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.
7. Frame sexual and gender-based violence as a **structural and political harm** produced by patriarchy, militarisation, neoliberal austerity, authoritarianism, fundamentalism, and fascism.
8. **Ensure the meaningful engagement and leadership of survivors** in policy-making, decision-making, and drafting laws and policies, including on matters that affect their rights, while creating confidentiality safeguards and upholding rights-based participatory processes when involving sensitive issues.

Climate, Technology, and Emerging Justice Frontiers

9. **Strengthen accountability, transparency and implementation of climate and environmental justice commitments,** ensure remedies for women and girls, in all their diversity, and uphold international climate-related legal obligations, including those of the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on the Obligation of States in respect to Climate Change.
10. Mandate **gender-transformative oversight of digital technologies,** addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence, discrimination, harassment, abuse, surveillance, and privacy violations and establishing **accessible, youth and disability-inclusive digital justice platforms**.
11. Hold private sector actors, including technology and telecommunications companies, **legally accountable** for rights violations and gender-based harms.
12. **Prohibit and end the use of internet shutdowns,** digital blackouts, and communications restrictions as tools of militarised and authoritarian governance, which silence dissent, obstruct access to justice and information, and disproportionately harm women, youth and adolescents, journalists, and feminist movements.

Militarisation, Arms Trade, and Conflict Economies

13. Reaffirming the **Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agendas,** affirm that justice cannot exist under **militarisation, occupation, war economies, or fascist regimes;** and that militarisation intersects with corporate and development agendas, reproducing poverty, displacement, and structural violence.
14. Guarantee continuous, accountable access to justice in conflict, post-conflict, and crisis contexts, including **mobile courts, shelters, survivor-centred pathways, safe abortion access,**

emergency response and legal aid, protection from discrimination or deportation and psychosocial support.

15. Establish special tribunals and cross-border investigations that prosecute **sexual violence, abduction, femicide, genocide, and rape as a weapon of war.**
16. **Fulfil all obligations to disarmament, and end the production, transfer, and use of lethal arms, including lethal autonomous weapons systems, by enforcing all relevant treaties and non-proliferation agreements in line with the UN Charter and international law, as a matter of priority, and confront the arms trade, militarised development, and corporate profiteering from conflict as structural barriers to justice,** by mandating the redirection of public resources from militarisation to social protection, health, education, and people-centred justice systems.

Justice as Redistribution of Power

17. **Repeal laws and security frameworks that criminalise dissent,** enable militarised policing, red-tagging, surveillance, and restrict civic space, including counter-terrorism and national security laws.
18. **Hold States, corporations, and International Financial Institutions fully accountable** for austerity, privatization, debt regimes, extractivist development, trade policies, and corporate capture that underfund justice systems, social protections, and civic spaces.
19. Integrate **temporary special measures under CEDAW Article 4 into** justice systems, including quotas and affirmative action, to close structural gender gaps in political participation and decision-making.
20. Mainstream gender-responsive crime prevention strategies for youth and adolescents, in all their diversity, across relevant social and economic policies and programmes to prevent further marginalization and exclusion and reducing their risk of becoming victims to crime, including forms of organized crime.

Structural, Intersectional, and Feminist Legal Reform

21. Conduct **comprehensive, intersectional, and feminist legal reform** across statutory, customary, religious, family and local laws to eliminate discrimination and **procedural barriers**, including burdens and standard of proof, that undermine access to justice in contexts of systemic inequalities.
22. Ensure that reparations dismantle systemic inequalities rather than merely provide individual compensation, and harmonize legal frameworks with CEDAW, relevant regional instruments, and constitutional guarantees by withdrawing reservations and establishing **binding, independent monitoring mechanisms with enforceable penalties.**
23. **Reaffirming the diversity of families**, strengthen and implement legal and policy frameworks that ensure gender equality in family and personal status matters, including marriage, divorce, inheritance, and guardianship, by guaranteeing equal rights and responsibilities, preventing child, early, and forced marriage, and addressing discriminatory customary, religious, and social norms, through inclusive and participatory processes.
24. **Train judges, prosecutors, and legal practitioners on the role of strategic litigation in promoting gender justice** and adopting judicial innovation, including virtual courts, e-filing systems and in interpreting laws to expand protections for women and girls.

Youth and Feminist Movements as Independent Political Actors

25. Recognize youth and feminist movements as **autonomous political actors** capable of leading justice reform, monitoring accountability, and organizing collective action by reaffirming **multi-stakeholder partnerships**, including Generation Equality, as well as the need for adequate, sustained, and flexible multi-year funding to ensure their effective implementation, accountability, and long-term impact.
26. Protect the **right to protest, strike, unionize, dissent, and resist**, online and offline, without reprisals.
27. Impose binding obligations on states to prevent and respond to **harassment, surveillance, reprisals, and violence** against activists, environmental and land defenders, and human rights defenders and guarantee **special protections and full respect for the rights** of women journalists, adolescent reporters, and media workers by facilitating legal aid, emergency support, and protection from all forms of harassment

Accountable Socio-economic and Reparative Justice

28. **Adopt decolonial justice approaches that confront colonial legacies, imperial domination, and Global North power** in legal systems, development policy, and international institutions, centering the leadership and knowledge of Global South and Indigenous communities.
29. **Guarantee universal access to quality education for all** by advancing socio-economic justice and reparations that dismantle systemic inequalities, enable long-term recovery and dignity, and ensure meaningful participation of affected communities, particularly adolescents and youth, in shaping economic justice policies including through rights-based legal literacy for all women and girls.
30. Enforce labor rights and social protection, including **equal pay for work of equal value, social security, collective bargaining, freedom of association, rights in informal and gig work**, and protections for migrant and young workers; implement **temporary special measures** to close gender pay gaps and structural inequalities in labor and social protections; and advancing comprehensive social protection and income-support measures that recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work.
31. **Guarantee universal, publicly funded, gender-responsive health systems that ensure equitable access to comprehensive health care**, including prevention, treatment, and long-term care for sexual and reproductive health conditions, maternal morbidity and mortality, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, anaemia, malnutrition, mental health conditions, non-communicable diseases, occupational injuries, and conflict- and climate-related health impacts, without discrimination based on age, caste, disability, migration status, or legal status.
32. **Adopt and implement binding measures to prevent and adopt an inclusive gender responsive lens to address violence and harassment in workplaces**, mainly through the full ratification and implementation of ILO Convention No. 190, while also establishing independent oversight mechanisms and tribunals to investigate and prosecute violations.

UN, Human Rights, Corporate and Evidence-Based Global Accountability

33. Mandate **inclusive, youth and community-led monitoring**, gender-disaggregated, accessible data collection, and transparent reporting to inform evidence-based policy- and decision-making on access to justice.
34. **Adopt and implement gender-transformative prison reforms**, in line with the Bangkok and Nelson Mandela Rules, by addressing discrimination and structural inequalities that drive criminalization; and ensuring detention conditions uphold human rights, dignity, safety, accountability, and equal access to justice and effective remedies, including independent oversight of justice systems, including **prisons, policing, and courts**, with enforceable accountability for violations, and confidential complaints mechanisms.
35. Include systemic human rights violations, including **forced displacement, occupation, corporate land grabs, extractivist projects, poverty, and wealth inequality**, as central to justice monitoring.
36. Ensure that any reforms to the justice mandates, mechanisms, entities, and architecture of the United Nations systems, including through the UN80 Initiative, **do not undermine the delivery of access to justice, especially for women and girls.**
37. **Strengthen corporate and global accountability by implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** with binding obligations for multinational corporations across sectors, ensuring respect for women's and girls' rights while establishing mechanisms to prevent corporate capture of justice systems, multilateral processes, and civic spaces.